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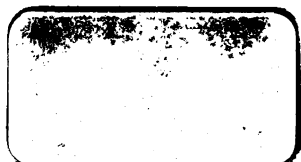
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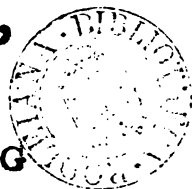
A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
EXCHANGE
OF
BRISTOL,

Wherein the Ceremony of
LAYING the FIRST STONE of that
STRUCTURE,

Together with that of
OPENING the BUILDING
FOR

PUBLICK USE,

Is particularly Recited.



By JOHN WOOD, Architect.

BATH:
Printed by THOMAS BODDELY, for JAMES LEAKE, 1743.

*Gough Adds Somerset
p. 59.*

PREFACE.

PERFECTION never appear'd more conspicuous in the great Works of the Antients, than when they endeavour'd to reconcile Art with Convenience in their Publick Structures ; Witness the *Grecian Gymnasiums* ; their *Pseudodipterick Temples* ; and the *Roman Forums*.

IN the First of these Instances, a double Portico was contriv'd and introduced on the North-Side of the Peristyle for the better Shelter of the People from the Inclemencies of the Weather ; and the Xystus was made considerably wider than

A 2

any

P R E F A C E.

any of the other Porticos of the *Gymnasium*, that Spectators might stand commodiously in it to see the Wrestlers and others perform their Exercises in the Middle of that Portico : In the Second Instance, the inward Row of Columns of the double Porticos that surrounded the Body of the *Temple* was taken entirely away, to make those Porticos the more free and clear for Men to walk in : *A Contrivance, says Vitruvius, which deserves to be considered as the Spring, from whence Posterity has taken the best and most elegant Precepts of ARCHITECTURE :* And in the Third Instance, the Intercolumnations were made wider than Ordinary, to give the Spectators, in the Porticos,

a

P R E F A C E.

a better View of what was doing
in the Piazza, or open Area of
the *Forum*.

CONVENIENCE was the predominant Principle required in the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL; to which every other Principle, and every other Precept of ARCHITECTURE, naturally became subservient. The Perfection therefore aimed at in that Structure was in reconciling the Conveniences required to such Rules of Art, as I conceived wou'd have the best Effect, when executed: How far I have succeeded herein the Reader may in some Measure judge, by the following Pages, the Product of a few Evenings Amusement; and if any Apology is necessary for the
Pub-

P R E F A C E.

Publication of them, I have only this to make, that they will answer such kind of Questions as are more frequently asked of me, in respect to the Building, than I can conveniently make a proper Reply to.

A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
EXCHANGE
OF
BRISTOL.

WHEN the CORPORATION of BRISTOL came to a Resolution to purchase proper Lands, and thereon to erect, not only an EXCHANGE, for the Use of the Merchants and Traders of that City; but a GENERAL MARKET, in Lieu of those Markets which now incumber the chief Streets, in the Heart of the Town: They vested the Conduct of the Whole, in a Committee of fifteen Gentlemen of their own Body, of which the Mayor and the Two Sheriffs of the City, for the Time being, were to make Three; and empowered any Five of them to act: They also empowered the Committee to meet, as often as they should think proper; and ordered, that at ever such Meeting, the Mayor, or, in his Absence, the Senior Member of the Committee present, should be Chairman.

THE

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THE Committee thus appointed, and thus im-
powered, having, within the Space of Two Years,
and at a very great Expence, purchas'd several Estates
in the Heart of the City, pull'd down the old
Houses, and clear'd the Ground of the superfluous
Materials; they then desired, by a Letter dated the
Thirtieth of *January*, 1740-1, and signed by
the Mayor, *Henry Combe, Esq;* to have a Con-
ference with me; and, on my attending them,
upon *Thursday* the 4th of *February* following, they
agreed with me to be their Architect; giving me,
at the same Time, proper Instructions, to enable me
to form Designs for their intended Works; which
they desired might be done upon the strictest Rules
of Oeconomy.

ACCORDING to those Instructions, I was to
contrive a BUILDING round an AREA; proper for
about Six Hundred People to assemble in, in such
Manner, as that it should have the outside Appear-
ance of one Grand Structure; and this was to be
divided into all the useful Rooms that was possible,
in order to make the most of the Ground to
be built upon. This Fabrick, now called the
EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, was to be yet
so far back, as to make the Street before it two and
forty Feet broad; and the Committee assigned the
Front Part of the Building for two Taverns; the
Side Parts for little Tenements, for Insurance, or
other Offices; and the Back Part for an Arcade,
i. e. Arc-Ades, with Rooms over it; the former
to serve as Part of the MARKET; the latter for
Additions to a Tavern, at the South-East Corner of
the EXCHANGE.

THESE

EXCHANGE OF BRISTOL. 9

THESE Directions, and the confined Situation of the Ground to be built upon, (which, by an exact Measurement, I found to be no more than one hundred and ten Feet in Breadth, including the Width of a Way by the Side of a Building, belonging to the Hoopers Company of *Bristol*; and also the Thickness of the Side Wall of that Edifice) soon suggested to my Thoughts an *Egyptian* Hall, as the properest Center for an august Building; and the most convenient Place for Men of Business to assemble in: So that the Design which I offered the Committee the next Day for this Structure, had, for the Place of Exchange, an *Egyptian* Hall, in the *Corinthian* Order, of eighty Feet square, surrounded with a high Building, divided into a great Number of Rooms; of which, Plate N^o 1, 2, exhibits a Copy of the principal Plan.

THE Wall from A to B, was to have been a Party-Wall, between the Hoopers Building, and the EXCHANGE; C, was the Door Way into the Common Hall of that Building; and D, was a Door Way to a Cellar under it.

THIS Design so far met with the Approbation of the Committee, that they resolved to proceed with the Work, conformable to it: For they concluded, that this hasty Resolution cou'd not be attended with such ill Consequences, as the delaying a Building wou'd create, which was designed for the Preservation of the principal Citizens, whose Healths and Persons were every Day endangered, while they assembled in the open Street, to carry on the Trade and Commerce of the City. I had therefore the Direction of the Committee to order the Founda-

B

tion

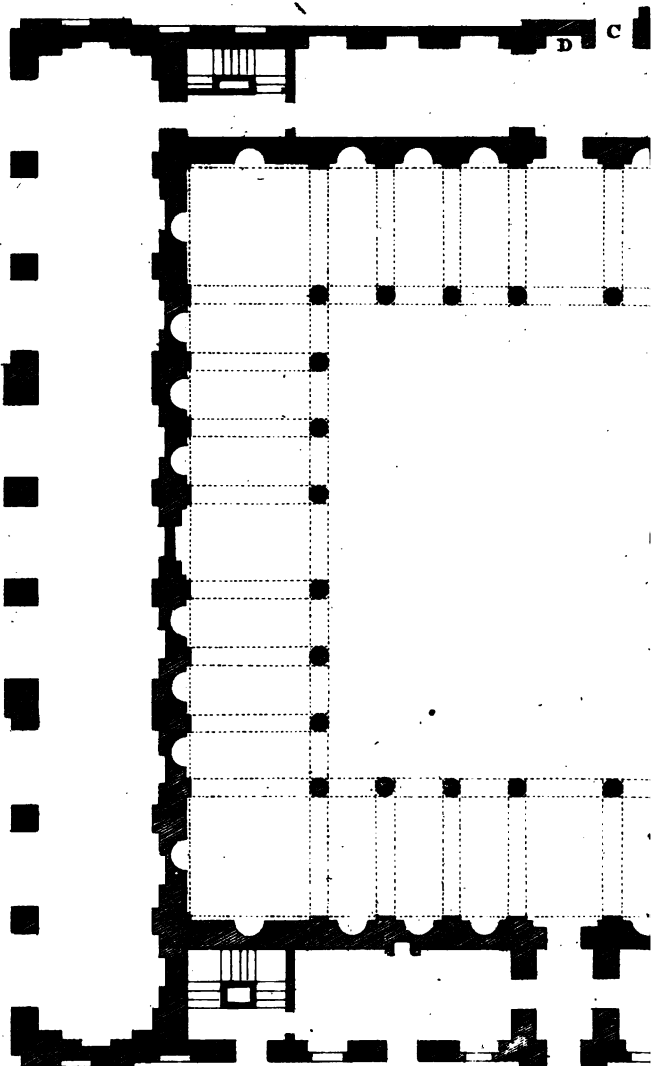
10 A DESCRIPTION of the

tion of the EXCHANGE to be dug, and to prepare the Draught of a Proposal for the Workmanship of the Rough Stone Walls, that printed Copies thereof might be given out, for all Master-Workmen to deliver in their Prices, upon *Thursday* the Fifth Day of *March*, for Building those Walls.

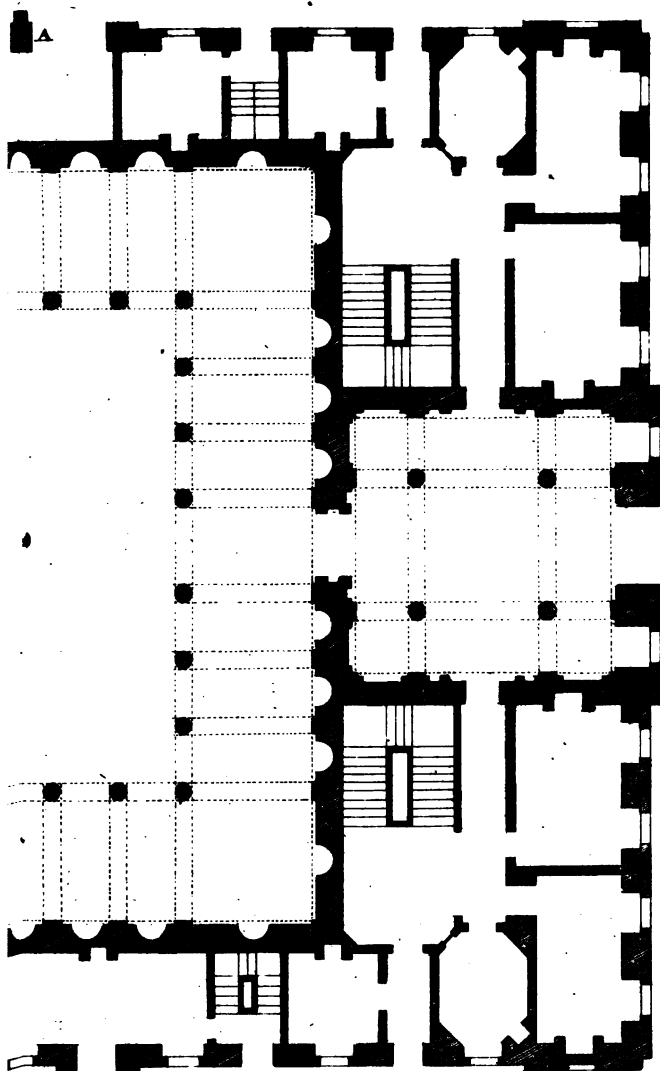
WHILE the Foundation was about, it was debated in the Committee, Whether the Place of Exchange should be Lofty, and Covered at Top, as I had design'd it; or Low and Open, to comply with the Opinion of the Citizens in General, then startled with the Novelty of a covered Place to meet in upon Mercantile Affairs? At length it was resolved, That the Publick shou'd be gratified in that Part of the EXCHANGE which was intended for their Convenience: So that the Committee, waving the private Interest of the Corporation, and the grand Appearance of the whole Building, not only ordered the Place of Exchange to be made Low and Open at Top, but the Area to be increased ten Feet in Length, to make the North and South Portico's more capacious than those on the Sides, and thereby give the Company the better Opportunity of enjoying the Benefit of the Heat of the Sun, during the Winter Season, in the North Portico; and of receiving the Advantage of Shade, during the Summer Season, in the South Portico.

UPON the Day appointed for receiving Proposals for the Rough Masons Work, several Workmen delivered in their Prices for Building the common Walls of the EXCHANGE; and the lowest Proposal was accepted and agreed to by the Committee. This, and the Progress that was then made in the
Work

South



West



North

East

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. II

Work of the Foundation, enabled me to name the *Monday* following as the proper Day for laying the First Stone of the EXCHANGE ; but the Quarter-Sessions falling upon that Day, it was laid the next, by the Mayor of the City, and placed at the North-East Corner of the Building : It was a large Block of Free-Stone, of about two Tun Weight ; it had the following INSCRIPTION, cut in the following Characters, upon its uppermost Bed ; and, in the Printers Phrase, the INSCRIPTION was thus display'd upon the Stone ;

Regnante Georgio II.

PIO, FELICI, AUGUSTO

L I B E R T A T I S,

E T

R E I M E R C A T O R I Æ

Domi Forisq;

V I N D I C E.

Primarium Lapidem hujusce Ædificii,

Suffragio Civium, & Ære publico extructi,

P O S U I T

H E N R I C U S C O M B E, PRÆTOR,

A. C. MDCCXL.

THIS INSCRIPTION, with an *English* TRANSLATION of it, was printed and published in BRISTOL, upon the very Day the First Stone of the EXCHANGE was laid ; and the Stone, before it was

B 2

fix'd

12 A DESCRIPTION of the

fix'd in its proper Place, was covered with a Sheet of thick Lead, the better to preserve it from the Injury of Time, and the Pressure of the Incumbent Work. The TRANSLATION was, in the following Words, thus display'd :

In the Reign of
The PIOUS, HAPPY, and AUGUST
George the Second,

PROTECTOR of
LIBERTY

AND

MERCHANDISE

At Home and Abroad,

HENRY COMBE, MAYOR,

Laid the First Stone of this Edifice,

Built by the Vote of the Citizens,

And with the Publick Money,

In the Year of Christ

MDCCXL.

THE Solemnity of laying the First Stone of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, upon the 10th Day of *March*, 1740-1, seems to have been not inferior to that of laying the first Brick of the *Exchange* in *London*, upon the 7th Day of *June*, 1566 ; for the Mayor of BRISTOL, after ordering the Foundation
for

EXCHANGE OF BRISTOL. 13

for the Front Wall to be braced, and Scaffolds to be erected on each Side of it, for People to stand upon to see the Ceremony, invited the Corporation, as well as the Society of Merchants, to be present at, and aiding to him in fixing the Stone.

THE Gentlemen so invited met at the Council-House, upon *Tuesday Morning*, the 10th of *March*, the Weather being then serene, mild, and clear; and from thence (when the Stone was ready to be fix'd) accompanied Mr. Mayor, who went in his Gown, to the Entrance of the Foundation; from whence I conducted them to the Stone. Mr. Mayor then asked me, If it was necessary for him to put any Thing under it? I answered, That it was usual to put some of the newest Coins under the First Stone of a Building; whereupon he threw several Handfulls of Money under the Stone he was going to lay, and was followed therein by some of the other Gentlemen there present. I then ordered the Props under the Stone to be struck, that it might fall upon its Bed; after which I presented the Mayor with a Mallet to settle it; who taking it in his Hand, and turning himself about to the Spectators, with the utmost Zeal and Affection, he acquainted them, *That he had, for a long Time, ardently wish'd for that happy Day; and that he rejoiced to see them there on that Occasion: That he hoped every Citizen in that, and all succeeding Ages, would make it his chief Study, and inculcate the same Principle in his Children, to promote the Business, for which that EXCHANGE was going to be erected.*—Then striking the Stone three Blows with the Mallet, he concluded with a hearty Prayer to God, *to prosper the*

14 A DESCRIPTION of the

the Work, surrender'd the Mallet to the first Alderman next him, and threw Five Guineas upon the Stone, for the Workmen (which at that Time were few in Number) to make themselves merry with : Three Huzza's were thereupon immediately made, the Bells in the neighbouring Churches began to ring, and an universal Joy seem'd instantly to diffuse itself among all the People.

EVERY Gentleman, who, upon this Occasion, accompanied the Mayor, gave the Stone three Blows with the Mallet ; adding thereunto a hearty Benediction for the Prosperity of the Work : And the Populace (exceeding numerous at that Time) were so fond of following their Example, that several People jumped down upon the Stone, from the Scaffold above, of thirteen Feet high, that their Weight, by their Fall, might contribute towards settling it in its everlasting Bed.

THE Mayor, the Corporation, and the Merchants, withdrew from the Foundation, to the Council House, where they drank Prosperity to the Work begun : In the Afternoon, the Populace were treated with Ale, upon the Exchange Ground, at the Chamber Expence ; and to prevent Disorders in the Distribution of the Liquor, a Scaffold of six Feet high was erected, to set the Barrels upon ; this was fenced round, and then proper Men were appointed to draw the Ale, and hand it over to the People.

AFTER the Work was thus begun, it was carried on with all the Expedition and Dispatch in the Power of every Body concerned in it ; the Committee first increasing the Arcade, in the back Part
of

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 15

of the Building, to a Breadth beyond what was originally intended ; and this, with the Addition to the length of the Place of Exchange, not only caus'd a different Disposition in the Side Tenements, from what is express'd in the original Plan, but created a few Alterations, from Time to Time, in the Work : So that the Whole now answers the following Plan, Plate N^o 3, 4 ; and the EXCHANGE, as it is now built, extends one hundred and ten Feet in Front, by one hundred and forty-eight Feet in Depth.

THIS Structure is situated almost in the Center of the City ; and it fronts Northward to *Corn-Street*, of forty-two Feet broad ; Eastward to *All-Saints-Lane*, of ten Feet in Width ; Westward to *Cock-Lane*, or rather *Exchange-Alley*, likewise of ten Feet in Breadth ; and Southward to a Piece of open Ground, intended for the Remainder of the GENERAL MARKET ; which Ground, if extended to *Baldwin's-Street*, (at the least) tho' but of the Breadth of the EXCHANGE, with the Lane on each Side of it, wou'd make an Avenue to the back Front of the Building, of about two hundred and sixty Feet in Length, by one hundred and thirty Feet in Breadth, and render the Market quite capacious and convenient for the publick Utility of the City.

THE Room, mark'd with the Letter A, in the Plan, Plate N^o 3, 4, is a Tetrastyle Hall, of the *Corinthian* Order, twenty-eight Feet square, and executed with Free-Stone. This Room makes the principal Entrance to the Place of Exchange, as well as to the Front Houses ; and the Room over it, was once propos'd for a Repository for the Records

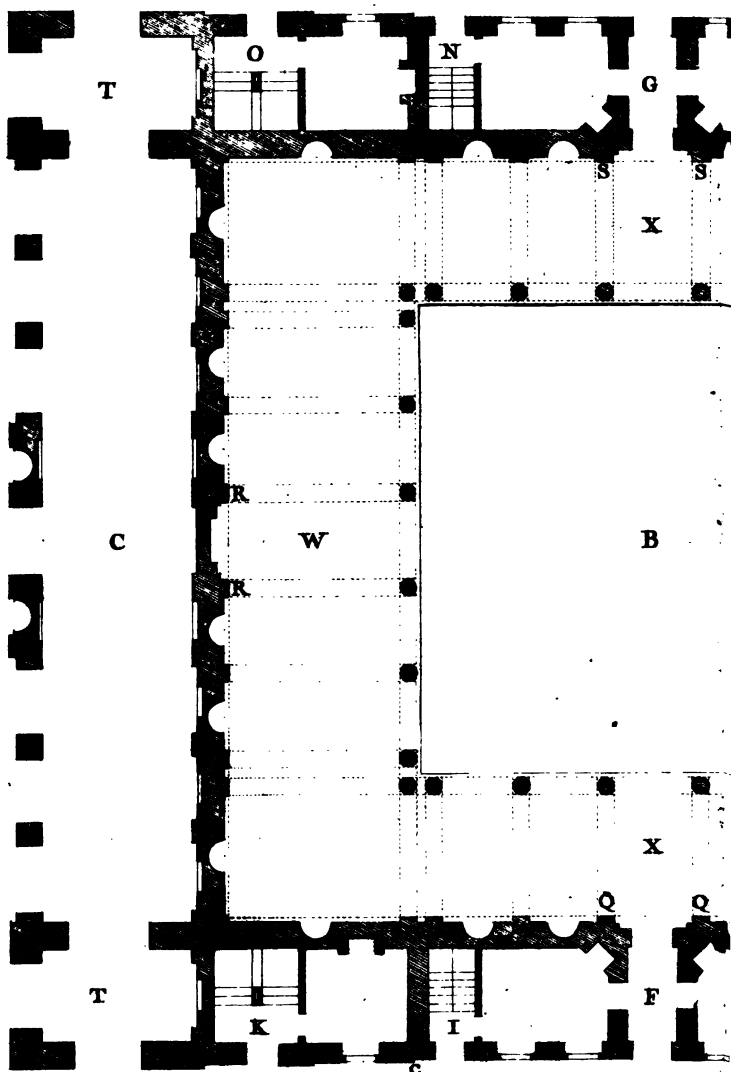
16 A DESCRIPTION of the

cords of the City; as such the Foundation was laid so strong, as to be able to support an arched Roof, surmounted by a Dome, with a Turrit upon it, to be built with Free-Stone, whose Summit was intended to be raised one hundred Feet high above the Level of the Street, as the proper Mark of Distinction for a Publick Structure; and within the Foundation Walls we made a large Reservoir for Water, to be ready upon any Emergency, wherein I proposed to fix one of those Engine-Pumps, invented by Mr. Creed, of *Greenwich in Kent*, for the Use of his own House and Gardens.

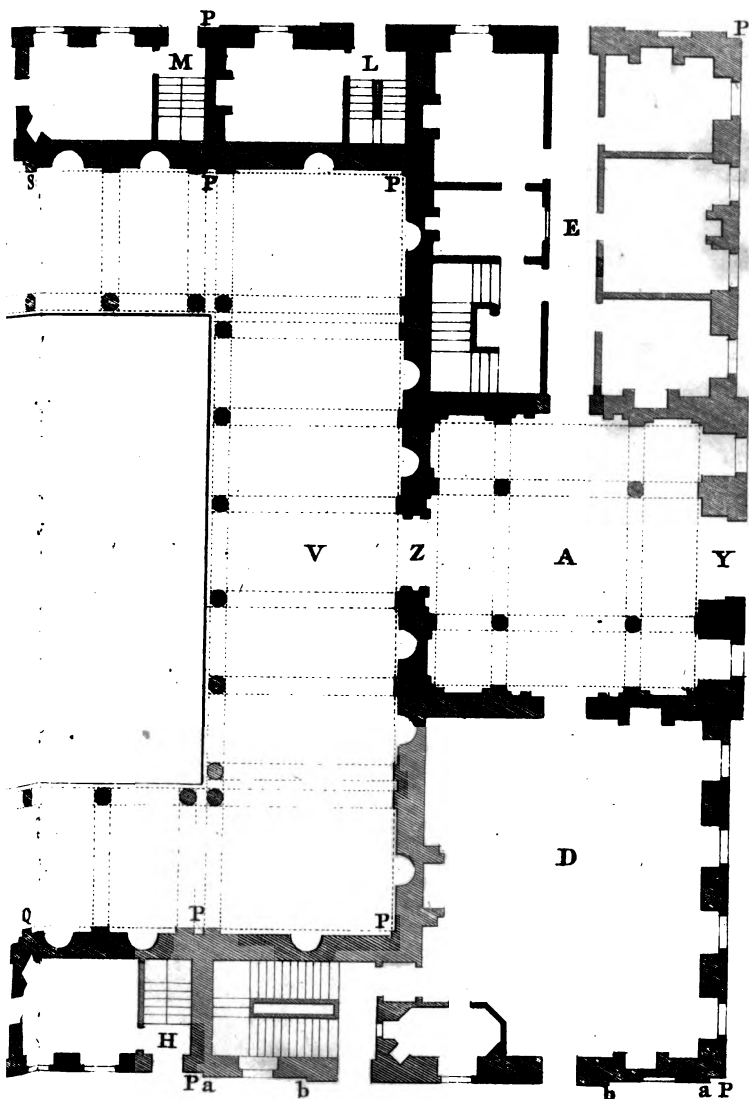
THIS Engine-Pump is a Machine of a very simple Nature, being no more than a common Pump, with a Pestern that works perpendicularly, a Cap to the Head of the Barrel, an Air Vessel by the Side of it, and some other small Things. By the Turn of a Cock, one of these Pumps discharges the Water, as by a lifting or forcing Quality: And I not only procured one of them for a Well belonging to my own House, in *Queen-Square in Bath*; but prevail'd upon the Inventor (who has now his Majesty's Letters Patent, to secure the Property of the Invention) to authorize Mr. *Thomas Atwood*, a Plumber in this City, to make them for the Benefit of the Publick in these Parts. My Pump will now become an Engine in a Second of Time; so that if a Fire shou'd break out within forty or fifty Yards of it, the Water in the Well may be instantly raised up, conducted by a Leather-Pipe, and forced out to stop its Progress; which might too far encrease, while a common Engine is fetching, and putting in order to play.—Happy had it been for the

South

West



East



EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 17

the Town of *Crediton* in *Devonshire*, (supply'd with Water only from Wells) if a few of these Machines had been apply'd to those Wells some Months ago ; for they might have proved the Means of stopping those Flames, which, in a few Hours Time, upon *Sunday* the 14th Day of *August* last, deprived above *Four Hundred and Fifty Families* of their Habitations, and did them above *Forty Thousand Pounds Damage*.

THE Court, mark'd with the Letter B, is a Peristyle of the *Corinthian* Order, of ninety Feet in Length, by eighty Feet in Breadth ; It is built with Free-Stone ; it makes the Place of Exchange for such as are concerned in the Trade of BRISTOL ; and it retains as much of the lower Part of the *Egyptian* Hall, in my original Design, as was consistent with the Conveniencies that, from Time to Time, were pointed out to me, to be provided for in the Work ; For the Portico's are still Octostyle, notwithstanding the extream Columns are brought so near together, to strengthen the Corners ; this increases the other Intercolumnations, and makes them of that Sort, which *Vitruvius* calls the *Areostylos*, that is, where the Aperture is two Diameters high, and sometimes less ; Whereas in my first Design, the Aperture was intended three Diameters high, and the Columns of a larger Diameter than in the Work.

THE Room, mark'd with the Letter C, is an Arcade ; the middle Part whereof is eighty Feet long, sixteen Feet broad, and sixteen Feet high ; it is built with Free-Stone, as the chief Edifice of the GENERAL MARKET ; but, at the same Time, it

C

is

18 A DESCRIPTION of the

is designed to make Part of the Place of Exchange, if it shou'd so happen that Room shou'd hereafter be wanted in the Peristyle B: The whole Arcade is now six Squares and a Half in Length; but in the original Plan it was intended eight Squares in Length.

THE Floor of this Arcade, as well as the Floor of the Portico's round the Piazza, or open Area of the Peristyle, are upon the same Level with the Floor of the Hall; but the Floor of the Piazza is a Step lower at the Extremities, tho' in the Middle it rises as high as the Top of the Step round it.

D, The Exchange Coffee-House, raised two Stories high, with a View of making it a Tavern, like the House E. The Coffee-Room was built thirty-six Feet long, thirty Feet broad, and twelve Feet and six Inches high, which was all the Altitude the Basement Story of the Building would admit of: It is wainscotted in a common Manner; but, if my Opinion had prevail'd, this Room should have been finished in the highest Taste, as it is the only publick Place of general Resort in the City for Gentlemen: However, as it is, I don't know of a better Coffee-Room, nor of one so well finish'd.

E, A House intended for a Tavern.

F, G, Vestibules, for Side Entrances into the Peristyle, built with Free-Stone; the Floors whereof are two Steps higher than the Floor of the Portico's.

H, I, K, L, M, N, O, Tenements built for Insurance, or other Offices; or for Trades People.

THE Parlour Floor of the Tenements, Coffee-House, and Tavern, is five Steps higher than the
Floor

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 19

Floor of the Hall and Portico's; which Elevation was absolutely necessary, to admit of a proper Plinth to the Building: And if there are some Inconveniencies attending it, the good Conveniencies are more than an Equivalent to them.

THE lower Part of the Tenements, M, N, O, is an Addition to my original Design for this Structure; and it was fixed upon when the Committee found there was a Probability of purchasing the Building belonging to the Hoopers Company, upon the West-Side of the EXCHANGE.

THAT Part of the Building which is mark'd with the Letters, P, P, P, P, P, P, P, P, is carried up three Stories high above the Ground: It is crowned with a Ballustrade; and the whole Altitude of it amounts to forty-nine Feet: The Remainder is only thirty-four Feet high, divided into two Stories; and the Whole is fronted with white Free-Stone, in as ornamental a Manner as a Building, with any Propriety, can be dressed; and yet there is nothing in it that could properly be omitted.

THE North Front is of the *Corinthian* Order, upon a rustick Basement: The Center Part breaks forward, and makes a Tetrastyle of almost whole Columns, supporting a Pediment, in the Tympan of which the King's Arms are carved in Stone: The Chamber Windows are dress'd with rich Tabernacles; the Attick Windows are square, with Architraves round them, and they rise no higher than the Bottom of the Capitals of the Order: So that the Spaces between the Capitals of the Columns and Pilasters in this Front, are filled with Festoons; which, by representing the four Quarters of the

C 2 World,

20 A DESCRIPTION of the

World, with the Products and Manufactures of every Country, points out the Use for which this Building was erected, as well as the Extent of the Commerce of BRISTOL, to all the principal Parts of the World.

THE several Parts whereof this Front is composed are small; which must be attributed chiefly to the narrow Street wherein they are to be view'd: All the Mouldings, proper to be carv'd, are enriched; the framing of the Doors of the Front Gate, (marked with the Letter Y in the Plan) is divided into a Sort of Mosaick Work, by large Nails; and the Pannels of those Doors are adorned with Ornaments in cast Metal.

So much of the East Front as lies between the Letters a, a, and belongs to the high Building, is regular; and that Part of it which advances forward with three Apertures, was once intended to have been finished with a Pediment; behind which the Funnels of the Chimnies were to have been drawn into a Turret. The Part that falls the most back, between the Letters, a and c, is likewise a regular Work: And if the Remainder of this Front is collated with the bottom Part of the high Building, a Regularity will appear in the whole for six Apertures in Length, on each Side the Door, that makes the side Entrance into the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE.

THE West Front of this Building is, and will be, the very same with the East Front: But the South Front is a more perfect Work, it being quite regular: The central Part of this Front breaks forward to support a Pediment, in the Tympan whereof,
the

the City Arms are carved in Stone; over which there is a Turret, in the Front whereof the Dial of a Clock is to be fix'd, for the Use of the Market People: The Ends of this Front break forward likewise, and are finish'd with Domes; upon which there are Pedestals, wherein some of the Funnels of the Chimnies are, with some Difficulty brought up; these Domes having not been absolutely fixed upon, 'till the Work below was farther advanced than I could have wished.

THE South Front, and so much of the Side Fronts as is Level with it, consists of two Stories of Building, as above; in which the Outside of the Arcade appears Rusticated, and all the Apertures in the Remainder of the first Story of the Side Fronts, are dressed in the same Taste. The Windows over the Arcade are of the Tabernacle Kind, as well as the central Windows of the second Story of the Side Fronts; The rest are dressed with single Architraves, crown'd with their proper Freezes and Cornices; but the Windows of the Attick Story of the high Building, have only single Architraves to adorn their Sides and Heads.

When we enter the Peristyle of this Building, from the Hall, A, we pass through a *Corinthian* Gate, arched at Top, and mark'd with the Letter Z, in which there are Iron Doors, made after one of *Tijou's* Draughts, to keep the former private, while the latter remains open, for the Use of the Front Houses.

UPON the Entablature over the Columns round the Piazza, or open Area of the Peristyle, there is a Stone Ballustrade; from the Top of which, the
Line

22 A DESCRIPTION of the

Line of the Roof of the Portico's, V W X X, ascends to the Foot of another Ballustrade, which crowns the Back Wall of those Portico's, and compleats the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE, in that Stile of Building, which some Architects (not improperly) called the Theatrical; for no other Stile that I know of would give the Place of Exchange the Elegance and Grandeur in the Building, or the Light and Air in the Piazza and Portico's, which they now have, and which will always make the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, that Cheerful and Elegant Place of Assembly, which the Citizens in General at first seem'd to require, by an open Court, and the Committee determin'd to procure for them, at the Expence of a great Deal of useful Room; which few besides themselves would have lost, in a Situation where every little Chamber is not only desirable, but highly valuable.

THAT Part of the Work which compleats the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE, in the Theatrical Stile of Building, was not resolv'd on 'till the 13th of *July*, 1742; on which Day the Superstructure of the whole Fabrick was finally fixed upon; and since that Time the Bulk of this Building hath been performed.

THE Roof over the Vestibules, F, G, and over the Middle of the Arcade, C, is finished with Domes, supporting Turrets; and those Domes are so contrived, as to appear Part of the Architecture of the Inside of the Building; as such the Fronts of them are rais'd from Pedestals in the upper Ballustrade, directly over the Pilasters in the Portico's below, mark'd with the Letters, Q Q, R R, and S S;

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 23

S S; and in those Turrets some of the Funnels of the Chimnies of the back Work are brought up. The Terret at the Back of the Peristyle, and facing the principal Entrance of the EXCHANGE, is double in Flank; and the Front Part of it is surmounted with a small Dome, terminated with a Pine-Apple. The Dial of a Clock is to be placed in the North Front of this Turret, for the Use of such as frequent the EXCHANGE; the Merchants Arms adorn the West Front of the Turret, on the East Side of the Peristyle; and the most antient Arms of the City are to be carved on the East Front of the Turret on the West Side of the Place of Exchange.

THESE Domes and Turrets were not fixed upon 'till the Building was too far advanc'd to give the Funnels of the Chimnies, brought into them, the Draught which they ought to have had: However, the Draught they have got is sufficient to answer the Purposes of carrying the Smoke, without the Assistance of a Chimney-Doctor, or any Contrivance, but that of giving Air enough to the Fire, 'till the Smoke forces its Way up the Funnels of the Chimnies,

THE South, or back Front of the high Building, with the projecting Wings, is so contrived as to appear a distinct Work of itself, above the second Ballustrade of the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE. Those Wings were not contriv'd for Ornament, but introduced for Terminations to a Room once intended to have been built over the North Portico of the Peristyle; and the central Part of this back Front was purposely made to advance a small Matter forward, to support a Pediment; in the Tympan
whereof,

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whereof, the present Arms of the City are carved in Stone.

THE Spaces between the Capitals of the Pilasters round the Portico's of the Place of Exchange, are adorned with Heads and Festoons in Stucco ; and the three Quarters of the World, *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, are represented in the same Materials over the Doors, in the Middle of the Portico's X X and W. These Doors are placed in *Corinthian* Gates, walled up behind, and are dressed with Architraves. The Ceiling of the Hall and Portico's is divided by Beams, into the same Compartments, as are expressed by dotted Lines in the Plan. Every Compartment in the Ceiling has an enriched Architrave round it ; the Sofits of the Beams are divided into square Pannels, twice recessed with enriched Mouldings ; and the Center of each Pannel is adorned with a Flower. The Compartments in the Floor are filled with flat Stones, laid in a Diagonal Manner ; and the Piazza, or open Part of the Peristyle, is paved with thin Stone, pitch'd upon their Edges, in a Form peculiar only to this Work ; but deficient of the Draught I made for it, Experience rendering it impossible to get Materials, in any reasonable Time, for the Work, as intended.

THE Side Doors of the Hall, A, are like the Side Doors of the Peristyle, and stand in *Corinthian* Gates, walled up behind ; The Arch of every *Corinthian* Gate in this Room, has a Key Stone, carv'd with a Head, to denote the Business of the Place to which the Aperture under each of those Arches make an Entrance : *Mercury's* Head is next the Coffee-House ; *Bacchus's* Head is next the Tavern ; and the

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 25

the Head of the *Dea Pecunia* of the Antients is next the Place of Exchange.

As the North Front of the Building is fully enriched, so every Moulding of the Work next the Peristyle, proper to be carved, is likewise enriched, to give the *Corinthian* Order within, the same Dress that it has without ; and nothing Material is wanted to compleat the Whole, but Statues to fill the four and twenty Niches in the Portico's of the Peristyle ; since such Statues will not only contribute to the Ornament of the Place of Exchange, but yield the Curious Matter for Speculation.

THE several Portico's and Domes of this EXCHANGE are all covered with that most excellent and beautiful Material, Mill'd-Lead ; and the Rest of the Roof is tiled with *Cornish* Slate, a Material as excellent in its Kind : But yet the Committee have often expressed their Concern, that the whole Roof was not covered with the same Lead. All the Covering of the Building being now of a grey Colour, it makes, with the white Stone, a fine Contrast to the Eye ; which, with the Dress of the whole EXCHANGE, is well worth preserving from the bad Effects of the Smoak of the Town : And I think there is no doubt of its being preserved, in a City so remarkable as BRISTOL for Neatness and Decency in her Publick Edifices.

ALL the Lines in the Structure I have been describing, are extreamly well preserved ; notwithstanding every Part of the Design hath been often altered from the first Draughts, to answer some new Convenience requir'd : But, nevertheless, the Building

26 A DESCRIPTION of the

ing hath been conducted, from First to Last, with as few Depredations upon its general Beauty and Work, as, perhaps, were ever made upon a Publick Structure of the like Magnitude; which may be very justly attributed to the UNANIMITY of the COMMITTEE, and to the Knowledge which one of the Gentlemen of it has in the *Naval Part* of *Architecture*, abstracted from his Knowledge in the Arts and Sciences in General; whereby he was not only enabled to conceive the Effect which Things in the *Civil Part* of *Architecture* on Paper wou'd have, when executed in a Building; but to give the Rest of the Committee, not so immediately skill'd in *Architecture*, the like Ideas, in his private Conversation concerning the EXCHANGE, with a View to preserve as much of the Original Design in the present Building as possible.

SUCH being the Form and Manner of Finishing the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL: The Oeconomy which I observed in the Work, consisted in the Choice of the Materials; in putting them together in small Parts, to answer the confined Situation of the Building; and in making the proper Contracts with the Workmen, for the most material Parts of the Work.

THIS Oeconomy, I think, has had its intended Effect; since the EXCHANGE, tho' a publick Work, don't exceed, in the Whole, the Sum we now expend on private Town-Buildings, upon the same Quantity of Ground.

THE EXCHANGE was so far compleated by the Beginning of last *August*, that I was then enabled to name the Twenty-first of the ensuing Month, as
the

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 27

the Day, whereon it shou'd be ready to be opened : The Committee upon this, came to a Resolution to open it, in a Grand and Solemn Manner, upon the Day I had named ; and the Corporation of BRISTOL having, upon *Saturday* the Tenth Day of *September*, been acquainted with their Design, entirely approved of it : So that it was ordered, that the Market which was to have been held upon *Wednesday* the Twenty-first of *September*, should be kept upon *Tuesday* the Twentieth ; and accordingly publick Notice of this was given by the Cryer, in the several Markets of the City, upon *Saturday* the Tenth Day of *September*, upon *Wednesday* the Fourteenth, and upon *Saturday* the Seventeenth.

UPON *Friday* the Sixteenth of *September*, the Committee resolved to discharge, at the Chamber Expence, the poor Prisoners confined in *Newgate* for Debt, that every Citizen might enjoy Liberty upon the Day of Opening the EXCHANGE : They also resolved to treat the Workmen, employ'd in the Building, with a handsome Dinner ; and directed that Bread and Wine should be ready at the Council-House, after the EXCHANGE should be opened, for all Gentlemen, without Distinction, to refresh themselves with.

THE Twenty-first of *September* falling in the Mayoralty of Sir *Abraham Elton* Bart. that Gentleman invited the Corporation and Society of Merchants to dine with him upon the Day of Opening the EXCHANGE ; and proposed to the Masters of the several Trading Companies to treat the Members of those Companies with Wine, at their respective Halls.

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As the EXCHANGE is the sole Property of the Corporation of BRISTOL, so it was ordered, That the Ceremony of Opening it, should consist in the Corporation meeting the Society of Merchants, and other Traders of the City, at a certain Place ; walking in Proceſſion with them from that Place to the EXCHANGE ; and there giving them the Use of the Peristyle to Negotiate their Affairs in, for the Time to come. Now the Dawn of the Day appointed for doing all this, was proclaimed to Town and Country, by the Discharge of several Cannons from *Brendon-Hill*, a vast high Mount on the West-Side of the City ; and then the Morning was usher'd in with Ringing of Bells. The Ships were soon dress'd with their proper Colours ; Flags were display'd upon some of the Churches ; and the Streets through which the Proceſſion was to be made, were, by an Order of the Magistrates, Swept and Clear'd of every Annoyance.

ABOUT Eight o'Clock in the Morning, I viewed the Building to see that every Thing was in its proper Order, and then waited upon the Mayor at his House in *Small-Street*, and made my Report, that the EXCHANGE was so far perfected, as I thought necessary for its being opened for Publick Use. The same Morning Sir *Abraham* sent for the Master Workmen of the Building and made them a Present of Five Guineas, to drink to the good Success of the EXCHANGE, and Prosperity to the City of BRISTOL : He also gave them Five and Twenty Pounds to be expended in Wine or other Liquor, upon their Men. Soon after this, the Keeper of *Newgate* carried the Prisoners, confined in that Goal for Debt, to the Mayor's

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 29

Mayor's House; and Mr. Mayor, after releasing them at the Chamber Expence, gave each Person something out of his own Pocket to begin the World with. He likewise ordered the Poor People in the *Merchants Alms-House*, &c. to be entertained in a handsome Manner, at his Charge, that the Hearts of all Denominations of Men in the whole City might be cheer'd upon the Day of Opening a Building, which for Ages past was most ardently wish'd for.

THE Place appointed for the General Meeting of such as were concern'd in the Ceremony of Opening the EXCHANGE, was the *Guild-Hall* in *Broad-Street*, and the Time to meet was fixed at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, of the Twenty-first of *September* last; by which Hour, the several Parties began to Repair to the *Hall*; and then, as the Weather was exceeding good, the Streets and Houses were soon lined with an infinite Number of People, from all Parts of the Town and Country. At Eleven the Procession began in the following Order, or as near it as was possible for the Companies to fall in with the Train.

The Master of *Colston's* Hospital, with the Boys under his Tuition, led the Way; and they were followed by the Master of *Queen Elizabeth's* Hospital, with the Boys under his Instruction: Then came the Exchange Keeper, in a very handsome Dress, with a noble Staff in his Hand: He was followed by the incorporated Companies of the City, in their Formalities, with their Colours borne before them, each of which was carried by a Warden, and the End held up by a little Page. The
Masons

30 A DESCRIPTION of the

Masons Company went First ; and the other Companies, by an Order of the Mayor and Aldermen, dated the Third Day of *November*, 1719, should have thus follow'd ; but, by the Hurry of the Day, were somewhat altered, in Respect to their Precedency : Tylers, Porters, Halliers, Carpenters, Tobacco-Pipe-Makers, Turners, Hatters, Sadlers, Inn-holders, Bakers, Butchers, Tanners, Cordwainers, Wyer-Drawers, Joiners, Dyers, White-tawers, Hoopers, Smiths, Chyrurgeons, (with Musick before them) Weavers and Taylors. The City Musick, with the Addition of Two French Horns, went next after these Companies ; then came the City Officers, according to their Rank, the inferior Officers first, and the great Officers next ; such as the Steward of the Sheriffs-Court, in his Barristers Habit, and the Chamberlain in his Gown, bearing a Mace of Gold, *garnished with Figures of that Purse which was always open for the Workmen employ'd in this Building* : The Town-Clerk was ill, and could not attend the Proceſſion. Then came the Corporation in their Scarlet Robes, with the Sword of State, which Queen *Elizabeth* presented their Ancestors with, borne before them by the Sword-Bearer, in his Gown and Cap of Maintenance. Sir *Abraham Elton*, Bart. Mayor, with *John Berrow*, Esq; Mayor elect, went first ; the senior Alderman, with the Hon. *Edward Southwell*, Esq; one of the Representatives in Parliament for the City, followed ; and after them the Rest of the Corporation walked according to their Seniority and Stations : To these succeeded the Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Members of the Merchants-Hall ; and the whole

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 31

whole was closed with a long Train of Coaches and Chariots, amounting to seven and forty in Number, exclusive of Mr. *Southwell's* Equipage.

THE Procession was made from the *Guild-Hall*, and passed up *Broad-Street*, down *High-Street*, and so on to the *Back*, where the Coasting Vessels lie: From thence it went into *Queen-Square*, at the North-East Corner; and passing through the Streets on the East and South Side of that spacious Area, came out upon the Lower-End of the *Key*, opposite the very Place where the famous Captain *Gwin's* Ship, the *Princess-Augusta*, lay repairing, from the Damages she had received, in four Victorious Battles with the *Spanish* Privateers, in the present War; one of which Privateers Captain *Gwin* blew up in the King's Channel, and was particularly Rewarded by the Admiralty for his Gallantry, good Conduct and Courage in that brave Action. From this glorious Object, the Procession turned up the *Key*, where the Ships employ'd in the Foreign Trade lie; and then, from the North-End of it, entering *Small-Street*, passed through that Street to the EXCHANGE.

THIS Circuit of Ground was about two thousand Yards in Length; the whole Train of People and Coaches extended about three Quarters of a Mile; they were about fifty Minutes in passing any one Place; and the Procession lasted about two Hours; during which Time the Bells kept Ringing, and the Cannons Firing.

WHEN the Corporation came to the EXCHANGE, they entered the Building by the Gate in the North Front; pass'd through the Hall to the Peristyle; walked

32 A DESCRIPTION of the

walked along the Portico's thereof to the West; and from thence came towards the Center of the Piazza, or Open Area; where an Haut-Pas, or rather a square Plinth, was prepared; which *Thomas Stevens, Esq;* an eminent Counsellor at Law, and Steward of the Sheriffs-Court, directly ascended from the East-Side: Then the Mayor commanded Silence to be kept, and the Doors of the Front Gate (which were shut to keep out the Populace) to be open'd; after which, *Mr. Stevens*, addressing Himself to the Merchants and Tradesmen, gave them the Use of the Peristyle of the Building for a PLACE of EXCHANGE, in the following Words:

“ *Mr. Day, and Gentlemen the Wardens, Assistants,*
 “ *and other Members of the incorporated Society*
 “ *of Merchants, within this City; and You Gen-*
 “ *tlemen, the Masters and Members of the several*
 “ *Trading Companies of this City.*

“ I AM commanded by the CORPORATION to
 “ acquaint You, that at a very large Expence
 “ of their own, and by the Addition of a hand-
 “ some Benefaction of the SOCIETY of MER-
 “ CHANTS, they have caused this Building, called
 “ the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, to be
 “ erected for your Benefit in general, and more par-
 “ ticularly, for the better Reception and Accom-
 “ modation of those that are concern'd in Mercan-
 “ tile Affairs.

“ It is with great Satisfaction that the Founders
 “ of this Work, being this Day met, within the
 “ Area of it, by the whole Collective Trading Body
 “ of

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 33

“ of this City, see their Undertaking happily completed. A Work which the Corporation, ever
“ zealous to promote the Welfare of their Fellow-
“ Citizens, have carried on, with a laudable Application and Ardour, equal to the Greatness of the
“ Design. This new EXCHANGE, now
“ opened, they cheerfully dedicate to your Service,
“ more especially to the Service of the Society of
“ Merchants, Generous Contributors to it; and to
“ You, from henceforth, they offer the free Use
“ of it.

“ PUBLICK Edifices have, in all Times, been
“ had in Esteem, and considered as Manifestations
“ of the Wisdom and Grandeur of a State, and
“ Accounts of them have been transmitted to Posterity, by eminent Writers in successive Ages,
“ with high Encomiums upon the Promoters of
“ them.—If such have been the Sense, and concurrent Opinion of Mankind, in former Ages,
“ of Publick Structures in general, how much
“ greater Commendation do the Founders of a
“ Fabrick of this useful Nature deserve, which
“ is calculated to promote that Harmony, Unanimity, and social Intercourse which ought always
“ to subsist amongst a Trading Free People, and
“ to excite a noble Emulation in them of excelling
“ each other in Industry, and Extension of Commerce?

“ THE Care and Circumspection of the Donors,
“ in seeing this Work faithfully executed, and in so
“ short a Time accomplished, shew their Dispositions of Mind, to promote the Publick Good of
“ this City, to be as enlarg'd as their Donation, and

E

“ merit

34. A DESCRIPTION of the

“ merit from you Acknowledgments of Approbation and Applause.

“ To what End, more useful and extensive to advance the Interest of the Publick, could the Corporation have applied their own Money? or the Society of Merchants added their Benefaction? What can more redound to their Honour, or to the Honour of the City itself, than the Raising of a Structure, which, by its Magnificence, will give Foreigners and Strangers an Idea of your Generosity and Worth; and by its Comodiousness will enable the MERCHANTS to assemble together, and mutually communicate their Thoughts, and exert their Endeavours, not only for the Preservation, but for the Enlargment of our Foreign Trade, which is the Granduer of the Crown, the Glory of the Kingdom, the Source of our Riches, and the Strength and Support of the common Wealth.

“ As our Metropolis, with great Reason, justly boasts that the EXCHANGE there, was first built in the glorious Reign of Queen *ELIZABETH*, who honoured it with her Presence, and dignified it with the Title of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; So may this Second City of *England*, with no less Reason Glory in her Happiness, that this EXCHANGE is here built, and open'd, under the auspicious Reign of his PRESENT MAJESTY, at a Time when his Arms are employ'd, and his Royal Person hazarded in the Defence of the Liberties of Europe, in the Protection of our Trade and Com-

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 35

“ Commerce, and the Preservation of our just and
“ undoubted Rights.

“ THAT the Trade of this City may flourish
“ and increase, and the Prosperity and Reputation
“ of it be daily advanced, are the ardent Wishes of
“ the CORPORATION, this noble Pile, raised by
“ their Liberal Hand, more eminently testifies, than
“ Words can express.

WHEN this Speech was ended, Sir *Abraham Elton* held up, and waved his Hat, and began three Huzza's; then Mr. *Stevens* retir'd, and *Thomas Fane*, Esq; an eminent Attorney at Law, and Clerk of the *Merchants-Hall*, taking his Place, and addressing Himself to the Corporation, return'd them the Merchants Thanks, in these Words :

“ Mr. MAYOR, and GENTLEMEN of the
“ CORPORATION,

“ THE MERCHANTS are very sensible of
“ the Obligations they are under to You,
“ for the great Care You have taken in Building
“ this EXCHANGE; and I am commanded, in
“ this publick Manner, to return You their hearty
“ Thanks for the same.”

THIS being over, Mr. Mayor began three other Huzza's; after which the Mayor and Corporation, Mr. *Southwell*, and the Society of Merchants, walking to the Center of the East Portico, proceeded with the Musick, &c. before them, round by the South to the North Entrance of the EXCHANGE, and from

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thence

36 A DESCRIPTION of the

thence to the *Council-House*, where they refreshed themselves with Bread and Wine; and then, in their Coaches, went to the *Merchants-Hall*, to partake of an elegant Entertainment, which Sir *Abraham Elton* had provided for them.

As soon as the Corporation and Society of Merchants had withdrawn themselves from the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE, the several Trading Companies began to retire from the same Place, to their respective Halls, to regale themselves with the Wine Mr. Mayor had presented them with: The Workmen, from guarding the Building, likewise retir'd to the Place appointed for them to dine, at the Chamber Expence: But the Populace remained in the Place of Exchange diverting themselves first, with who shou'd keep Possession of the Haut-Pas? then with scrambling for Money, which several Gentlemen threw amongst them; next with Kissing the Haut-Pas; and last of all with scrambling for more Money, which they desir'd might be dispersed amongst them in Copper-Coin, rather than in Silver, to give them the better Opportunity of increasing their Sport, in striving for it in several Places at the same Time.

THE Diversion of these People was quite innocent, tho' rough; and it very much resembled the Diversions, as described by several Authors, at the Bacchanalian Festivals of the Antients.

THE Evening of this long wish'd for Day was concluded with Ringing of Bells, Firing of Guns, and making Bonfires in proper Places: All which, with the whole Transactions of the Day, was conducted without any ill Accident, or any of those
Dis-

EXCHANGE of BRISTOL. 37

Disorders too frequently committed at Publick Rejoicings; which may be attributed to this, that the Festival of Opening the EXCHANGE was, in the Nature of it, agreeable to all Parties: And if Pageantry on this Occasion had been thought necessary, the Publick had certainly been gratified with it: But what Pageantry could equal that of a solemn Procession of the whole Collective Trading Body of a City, that pays the Government a Custom for their Goods of above One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds a Year?

NOTWITHSTANDING the whole Transactions of the Day of Opening the EXCHANGE were conducted without any Accident, yet I can't say the same of the Building; for during the Course of the Work, whether through Negligence and Carelessness, or from the Want of Experience in heavy Works, expeditiously carried on; or from what other Cause, I shall not pretend to determine, a great many of the Workmen were hurt: But as often as any Accident happen'd, effectual Care was taken of the poor Sufferers, and Wages paid them, during their Illness, by the Order of the Gentlemen of the Committee.

THE Peristyle of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL will hold above fourteen hundred and twenty Men, allowing five Square Feet of Ground for each Man to stand upon; and the Area of it is in Proportion to the Area of the Inside of the ROYAL EXCHANGE in *London*, As seventy-two Is to one hundred and eighty, and a Trifle more; though at the fullest Assembly in the Former, the Merchants and Traders will not amount to above the one-sixth Part
of

38 A DESCRIPTION OF, &c.

Of what appears at a full Assembly in the latter: So that the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL is much more Capacious for the Company that meet in it, than the ROYAL EXCHANGE in *London* is, for the Merchants and Traders of that Metropolis.

By the History of *London* it will appear, that the Profits of the Shops and Ware-Houses in the ROYAL EXCHANGE, soon reimburs'd the Expence of the present Fabrick: But at BRISTOL, several thousand Pounds are expended upon the EXCHANGE, for the Use of the Publick, without so much as a Probability of the least Return; and this Noble Spirit had, most undoubtedly, shewn itself still further in that Work, if it had not been restrained for Want of Ground to extend the Building in Front. A Publick Structure thus confined, may therefore claim the PITY, but I hope it will never deserve the just CENSURE of the Criticks.

OCTOBER 12, 1743.

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